

AUB gets \$1.3 million for treatment plant upgrade

U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) announced today \$1,350,000 in funding for the Athens Utilities Board to upgrade the Oostanaula Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The funds will be used to help pay for the \$16 million total project upgrade to the facility.

"I am pleased that we were able to secure the funding for this project," Duncan said.

"Upgrading this plant is the single biggest hurdle in lifting Athens Utilities Board's sewer moratorium. I certainly want to thank everyone in the Athens community for their efforts in getting the project request ready to bring before the United States Congress."

Said Buddy Liner, Athens Utilities Board chairman, "Everyone in Athens knows how important the construction of this wastewater treatment plant is to our community and its future growth potential. AUB and the people of Athens are extremely fortunate to be represented in Congress by a man who understands our issues and works to support our city's needs."

Currently, the Athens Utilities Board is under a state-imposed moratorium from adding additional homes and businesses to the wastewater portion of its system that runs through the Oostanaula Plant.

In the plant's current condition, wastewater must bypass treatment during heavy rainfalls because the plant cannot handle the volume. The upgraded facility will be able to accommodate a much greater capacity.

The funding for this project was approved with the passage of the FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Thursday.